(c) The approach to the Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

Pending labour disputes

4599. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labour disputes pending in various labour courts in the country and the rate of their disposal during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases decided in favour of employees/workers, State-wise, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The number of industrial disputes that remained pending and were disposed of by the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts located in various parts of the country during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Pending	Dispossed Off
1999	9649	896
2000	12132	849
2001	11626	1803

(b) Information is not maintained in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts.

(c) Meetings of Presiding Officers are held from time to time to impress upon them the need to dispose of cases expeditiously. Lok Adalats have also been held recently to expedite the pending cases.

Child labour in match and fireworks industry

4600. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZAMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child labour engaged in match industry, fireworks industry and other industries as on 31st March, 2002, State and industry-wise; and

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the employers do not engage adults in such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Authentic information on child labour is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 1.1.28 million. The State-wise position is given in the Statement (*See* below). Industry-wise distribution of number of working children are not maintained. The census figures of 2001 are yet to be published.

(b) No, it is not a fact that most of the employers do not engage adults in such industries.

Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes in which manufacture of matches and fireworks is also included. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable to be prosecuted. The Central Government and State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child labour related provisions of the laws.